

has never, I think, been made a party question, I desired in case of a vacancy to have it in my power to aid in placing you on the Bench. I have always thought that a seat on the Supreme Court Bench was your appropriate place, that you could there render the most Honorable and important services to the public, & for the greatest period. You may perhaps remember that when you were about to enter into National Politics, I expressed to you my regret that that course would disappoint this, my cherished anticipation for you.

And now, my dear Sir, without going into commonplaces you have the matter before you.

I mentioned these things to but one person at the time & could not to you.

Yrs very truly.

Courts will be continued for Treasurer.

Brogden<sup>52</sup> Comptroller, & Page<sup>53</sup> will be elected Secretary of State.

I think there will be no opposition to R. R. Heath<sup>54</sup> and Shepperd<sup>55</sup> for Judges.

eracy resulted in financial ruin. Refusing to take advantage of bankruptcy proceedings, Strudwick surrendered all to his creditors and took up life anew in a two-room cottage. He was the first president of the North Carolina Medical Society. Richard H. Shyrock, "Edmund Charles Fox Strudwick," *Dictionary of American Biography*, XVIII, 158.

<sup>52</sup> Curtis Hooks Brogden (1816-1901), of Wayne County, was a lawyer and busy politico. An able debater known as "Rough and Ready," Brogden began his political career as a Jacksonian Democrat, but, to the dismay of his section, supported radical Reconstruction after 1865. A political cohort of William W. Holden, Brogden favored Negro suffrage and rule by the military. Only during the 1870s did he seek conciliation with the white majority. He was very frequently an officeholder in over fifty years in public life. During his lifetime he held the following offices: member of the Commons, 1838-1850; state comptroller, 1857-1867; state senator, 1868-1872; lieutenant governor, 1873-1874; governor, 1874-1877; United States House of Representatives, 1877-1879; and state house of representatives, 1887-1889. He was also one of the largest landowners in Wayne County. George S. Willis, "Curtis Hooks Brogden," in Ashe, *Biographical History*, VI, 106-113; *Biographical Directory of Congress*, 601.

<sup>53</sup> Rufus Page, of Wake County, was North Carolina secretary of state, 1859-1862. R. D. W. Connor (comp. and ed.), *A Manual of North Carolina . . . 1913* (Raleigh: North Carolina Historical Commission [State Department of Archives and History], 1913), 441, hereinafter cited as Connor, *Manual*, 1913.

<sup>54</sup> Robert R. Heath (1801-1871), of Chowan County, a native of New Hampshire and a graduate of Dartmouth College, came to North Carolina before 1840 as a teacher. He became a prominent lawyer and he served as a judge of superior court (1859-1865) before moving to Memphis, Tennessee. Connor, *Manual*, 1913, 449.

<sup>55</sup> Jessie George Shepherd (1821-1869), of Cumberland County, graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1841. A lawyer by profession, he was a member